

Dear Madam and/or Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in hopes to lend support to the wonderful folks that have been lending me support in my time of need. For the last few months I have been receiving assistance from the Sunburst Foundation. The Sunburst Foundation was referred to my family by the Lake County Child Protective Services when my infant sustained a terrible injury. The whole ordeal could have been miserable, but turned out to be a blessing.

I am a single mother of four children and have been struggling for quite sometime with providing my children with a consistent home life. I would often feel very overwhelmed and throw my hands in the air and just give up. Other times I would resort to alcohol. None of these methods were working and I would spend many nights up worrying about how my children were being raised and how they were going to turn out as adults. When I was told that I would be having a family advocate come to my home and help me I was a bit upset thinking what could some stranger tell me about my family that I didn't already know?

There have been many benefits and services provided by my family advocate Aaron coming in to my home once a week. My once chaotic house that used to be filled with yelling and screaming is now a house of peaceful democratic discipline. Aaron provided me with a lot of research and ideas on how to develop and implement an effective discipline plan that my children would respond to. I learned that discipline is to teach, not to make my children feel bad. I have also been provided with a lot of information on the development of my children. This has helped me know what to expect out of my children, this makes life a lot less stressful because I am aware of what is normal and what may be a concern. My self-esteem has sky rocketed and I feel much more empowered. I am now the mother to four beautiful children instead of their door mat. I know that the skills that I have learned are not only benefiting me but are benefiting my children because they are learning new skills that they will be able to carry into their adult lives.

In home services are a very important and beneficial programs offered to needy families. I go and visit quite a few of my friends and family and see how they struggle, witness the constant yelling and realize how lucky I am to have received the wonderful assistance from the Sunburst Foundation.

Sincerely Thankful;

*Cherri Rorvik*

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